

PATENT

In re Application of

APR 27 2004

Patent Art Unit: 3728

For: **BOOT LINER**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant brings the attached references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and requests that they be considered and made of record in this application. Copies of the non-U.S. patents are attached. *No fee is believed to be due for this Information Disclosure Statement.* However, if a first Office Action on the merits was mailed before the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-1836. A duplicate copy of this Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

Since this application was filed after June 30, 2003, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office waives the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a) (2) (i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. Patent and each U.S. patent application publication.

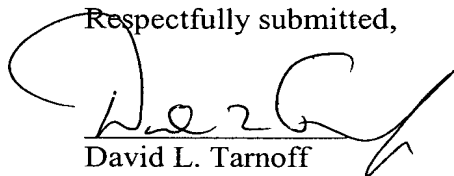
European Patent Publication No. EP 1 166 667 discloses footwear having a strap arrangement with stiffeners. An English abstract of this publication is provided to better understand this reference. Also, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0054240 is the corresponding U.S. equivalents, and thus, serves as an English translation of this publication.

German Utility-Model Publication No. DE 201 16 617 discloses footwear with an inner tightening mechanism. An English abstract of this publication is provided to better understand this reference. Also, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0129518 is the corresponding U.S. equivalents, and thus, serves as an English translation of this publication.

* * *

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Tarnoff
Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 32,383

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Dated: 4-27-04

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/758,591
Filing Date	January 16, 2004
First Named Inventor	Shuichi HIRAYAMA
Group Art Unit	3728
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	SN-US035198

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,924,218-B	07-20-1999	Dalvy et al.	
		US- 5,937,542-B	08-17-1999	Bourdeau	
		US- 2001/0054240-A1	12-27-2001	Bordin et al.	
		US- 2002/0129518-A1	09-19-2002	Borsoi et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		EP-1166667-A1	01-02-2002	Bordin et al.		No
		DE-20116617-U1	03-07-2002	Salomon		No
		JP-2001-269202-A	10-02-2001	Baso		Yes

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.